

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO QUAYLE ACTION
U.S. Appln. No. 10/687,930

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been examined. Also, the application is in condition for allowance except for various formal matters.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings because they do not show the reference designations Fa, Fb, and Fc. Applicants submit that these notations are not reference designations to identify items in the drawings. Instead, they are merely notations for explaining the mathematical expression “Fc = Fb - Fa < Fb.” Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that the notations have to be included in the figures and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Also, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings because the specification does not refer to reference numeral 54b in Figs. 14 and 15. Applicants submit that at least page 39, line 5, refers to the reference numeral.

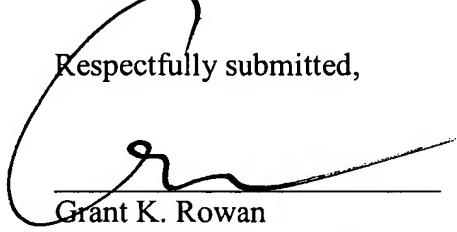
With respect to the remaining objections, Applicants submit that the amendments to the specification, claims, and drawings overcome them.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 1, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the sheets containing original Figs. 12, 18, and 19 with the Annotated Sheets containing amended versions of Figs. 12, 18, and 19 in which changes to the figures are shown in red ink.

Please replace Figs. 31 and 32 with a Replacement Sheet in which the figures have been labeled with the “PRIOR ART” designation.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets
Replacement Sheet